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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/670,840	09/28/2000	Shoko Uchisako	1248-0518P-SP	8291

7590 11/13/2003

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, JUDY

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2861

DATE MAILED: 11/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/670,840

Applicant(s)

UCHISAKO ET AL.

Examiner

Judy Nguyen

Art Unit

2861

MW

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5 and 7-9 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6 and 10-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 5, 7, 8, and 9 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 9. Please note that although applicant indicated that claim 5 read on elected species, the examiner noted that the elected species does not including the feature regarding one of the nozzles being shifted as recited in claim. Hence, claim 5 is also being withdrawn for directing to non-elected species. Claim 9 is also being withdrawn for depending on claim 5.

Applicant also indicated that the amended claims 1 and 2 are generic. The examiner disagrees. These claims direct to simultaneously printing on more than one portion on one recording paper. This feature is not generic to the species directing to double sides printing.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the transportation path is curved along each outer surface (claims 11, 12) must be shown or the feature canceled from the claims. No new matter should be entered. It is noted that the drawings

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illustrate the path being curved only along the front and back surfaces, as opposed to each surface. "Each" suggests all surfaces.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Objections

Claim 2 is objected to because of the following informalities: --and—should be inserted after "a supporting axis;" (line 4). Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for having the transportation path being curved along

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the front and back surfaces of the carriage, does not reasonably provide enablement for having the transportation path being curved along each outer surface of the carriage.

The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims. For path to be curved along each outer surface of the ink carriage, the path must be completely surrounded the ink carriage. One skilled in the art would not know how to make and/or use such a path that can be completely surrounded the ink carriage.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-4, 6, and 10-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1-4, 6, and 10-16: What is the different between a transportation direction and a transportation path? It appears that they are one in the same?

Claim 12: "a substantially same space therebetween" is not understood. It is unclear what defines the space therebetween?

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Claim 14: this claim is completely ambiguous. What is "a virtual extension line"? How can ink carriage formed to be on such a virtual extension line that extends toward the ink carriage itself as suggested by the claim?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 2, 10, 14, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Uchiyama (US 4,538,160).

Uchiyama discloses all limitation of the claimed invention as follows:

- A supporting axis (along 5)
- A carriage (4) including ink heads (3, Y, M, C, B) each provided with an ink nozzle facing in a different direction (clearly illustrated).
- With respect to the functional language after "such that" (claims 1, 2) and wherein (claim 14), it does not limit the claims to a particular structure; hence, it does not limit the scope of the claim or claim limitation. Apparatus claims must be structurally distinguishable from the prior art (MPEP 2114). Hence, the functional language recites in the claims cannot serve to distinguish over the prior or further limit the claimed apparatus.

Allowable Subject Matter

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Claims 3, 4, and 16 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Judy Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-7062. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ben Fuller can be reached on (703) 308-0079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-3431.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



Judy Nguyen
Primary Examiner
November 10, 2003